K-12 BLUEPRINT

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Empowering Students to be Agents of Their Own Learning

Comparing Microsoft Speaker Coach* and Google Slides* in improving student presentation skills.

Objective

The goal of this paper is to assess how students can improve their communication and presentation skills through the use of AI-powered tools such as Microsoft* Speaker Coach or a combination of Google Slides* with Chromebook Screencast* and the third-party product, Yoodli*.

Key Findings

1. The Google solution takes 77% more clicks to record, download, upload, and review results than Microsoft Speaker Coach.
2. Students using the Google solution spend 88% more time waiting for feedback, while Speaker Coach provides feedback almost instantly.
3. Built in to Powerpoint, Microsoft Speaker Coach gives students real-time feedback while they present, and a summary report at the end.
4. Speaker Coach's real-time feedback includes pacing, use of filler words, use of inclusive language and reading directly from the slides.
5. The Google solution is based on a recording, so real-time analytics are not available.
6. The Google solution uses three tools: Google Slides, Chromebook Screencast, and a third-party product, Yoodli. It requires students to make a recording of themselves and then upload it to Yoodli.
7. The Google solution lacks a simple, single interface built into their presentation tool, requires managing multiple accounts, and opens students up to potential issues using a third-party app.
8. Students using Microsoft Speaker Coach in PowerPoint Online also have access to feedback on their body language and to use an interactive pronunciation practice tool on words they mispronounced.

Conclusion

Communication skills, including public speaking, are essential for career and workplace readiness. To become strong communicators, students must have multiple opportunities to practice while receiving meaningful feedback. Microsoft Speaker Coach and the Google mashup solution both provide meaningful feedback on student speaking and presenting performance for self-reflection and reducing anxiety. However, the additional time and effort spent recording one's presentation with a screencast app, then setting up and configuring Yoodli, and waiting for results make Microsoft's embedded Speaker Coach a better solution. Speaker Coach is nearly effortless in comparison, providing self-reflective data at the press of a button inside PowerPoint. Microsoft surpasses the equivalent Google solution in performance for learners in terms of feedback results, ease of use, security, and speed.

For students, Microsoft Speaker Coach provides real-time feedback in addition to an analytical report that can meaningfully improve a student's presentation and speaking skills.

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